

FLASHBACK

published occasionally by the
Washington County Historical Society
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Volume V, Number 5October, 1955

"Uncle" Presley Smith
by Rowena McCord Gallaway

One of the current aims of the Washington County Historical Society is to ascertain and record facts about pioneers of our county. A statement by that prolific biographer, the late "Col". J. H. VanHoose, that Presley R. Smith "helped to build more school houses and church houses in Washington County than any other man who ever lived or died in this county" gives us to believe that the pioneer P. R. Smith was an important and useful citizen who merits recognition of his public spirit. For this reason we have assembled the following items and comments, derived from the local press of his time, from his contemporaries, and from later-day residents who remember "Uncle Presley Smith".

Mr. Smith was born in or near Fayetteville, Lincoln County, Tennessee. About the year 1835, probably with others from that vicinity, he came to Washington County, Arkansas. We have, so far, no record of his parents nor do we know the exact date of his birth, but if the surmise of his closest friends is correct, Presley R. Smith had an illustrious natal year -- 1807, the same as Robert E. Lee and Henry W. Longfellow. We do know, however, that Mr. Smith's father and the late Judge B. F. Campbell's father, James M. Campbell (1809-1907) were cousins. Judge Campbell once recalled, "When I was appointed administrator of my father's estate, Uncle Presley Smith made my bond." P. R. Smith located near Farmington, where he taught school as well as farmed.

When he came to Arkansas, Mr. Smith was a mature man, married, with at least one child. His wife, born Mary Woodruff, was one of the two daughters of William R. (1786-1853) and Matilda Furgason Woodruff (1789-1863). Their other daughter, Elizabeth Woodruff, became the wife of William Barrington of Elm Springs. The Woodruffs, who also moved to northwest Arkansas from Tennessee in the year 1835, were ascendants of numerous present-day residents of Washington County.

Mr. Smith and his family moved to Fayetteville after he was elected sheriff of the county in 1840. He was made county clerk in 1846. In 1854, to quote one of his friends, J. L. Dickson, "Smith was elected clerk by a large majority over Parks." P. R. Smith was chosen chancery clerk in 1859; ten years later his title was "Circuit Clerk", and in the 1870's he was either county or chancery clerk. Goodspeed states that in the elections of 1872 P. R. Smith, a Democrat, won over his "Liberal" opponent, R. Putman, and a "Radical" rival, G. W. M. Reed. All told, for some forty years the signature and name "Presley R. Smith" or "P. R. Smith" appeared on court records and documents of Washington County. Defeat by Hugh F. Reagan in the year 1880 definitely checked Mr. Smith's long career as a public official. One of the few brick structures in Fayetteville before the Civil War was a little building east of the Walker-Stone home (now the Colonial Apartments) on West Center street, which P. R. Smith used as an office.

The Smith residence was on that same street, south of the present Junior High School. Besides the large two-story dwelling, there were appurtenant buildings and one or two servants' houses in the rear of the premises, which ran back one block to the south. This old Smith home, considerably changed, is now owned and occupied by Mr. W. T. "Tobe" Davis.

One autumn evening this substantial but unpretentious home place presented a very striking contrast to an elegant residence less than a block up the street. In the fall of the year 1852, on the night after the Democratic presidential victory, Whig homes in Fayetteville -- for example, that of Judge David Walker (later the S.K. Stone residence) -- remained dark, while those of Democrats were brilliantly illuminated. At Mrs. Fanny Quarles' boarding house, two young men roomers, Dr. W.D. Polson and "Buck" Rogers, had their quarters brightly lit, but (to employ the language of one of their companions) Mrs. Quarles "lit into those boys, and they had to burn their candles elsewhere that night." Conspicuous among the gaily lighted, festive homes on that occasion was that of P.R. Smith.

This gentleman was a trustee of the noted Fayetteville Female Seminary and a loyal patron and adviser of its founder, Miss Sophia Sawyer. P. R. Smith, together with James Sutton, was an executor of Miss Sawyer's will, and when in the year 1868 the property of that institution was sold, Mr. Smith bought it, he being the mortgagee.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith accommodated in their home several non-resident pupils of the Seminary, and their two daughters, in turn, attended the school. These girls were Matilda Catherine or "Kate", who married (1) DeWitt Clinton Yell, the only son of Archibald Yell, and (2) Augustus Southworth, who was the father of Fayetteville's well-remembered dentist, the late Dr. J.R. Southworth; and Mary Emily or "Puss", who later married Henderson Holmes of California. He also belonged to a prominent Northwest Arkansas family. Jackson or "Jack", the eldest son of the Smith household, married the Principal of the Fayetteville Female Seminary.

Mrs. Lucretia Foster Smith was a comely and cultured lady about the same age as her husband. Her marriage, on the 17th of September in the year 1856, was sorrowfully brief. To quote the late Rev. J.H. Rhea, "She was a noble young lady of fine endowments and accomplishments. Several years after she took charge of the school she married a young man, a son of the gentleman with whom she had boarded for a long time. Young Smith, soon after their marriage, went to New Orleans to purchase goods; being a merchant."

The same author continues to relate that after some weeks word came that Jackson Smith had died of cholera. His trunk and clothing were sent home, followed by a sealed metallic casket. His widow, looking through the glass windows of the coffin, recognized the body of her husband. Even his eye glasses -- Jackson Smith had an injured eye -- were in place.

Another tale about this tragedy ran thus: Uncle Presley having insisted, cholera or no, that the coffin be opened, was unable to identify the remains as those of his son, but he never told this to his daughter-in-law. Local rumors persisted that the body buried as Jack Smith's was that "of a dead Mexican", and that Smith was living in Mexico. During the Civil War there was a report that W.A. Jackson Smith was down in Texas fighting for the South. There was even an innuendo that his widow finally learning of her husband's deception "died of a broken heart". We do know for a fact that Mrs. Lucretia F. Smith (Who continued as head of the Fayetteville Seminary until the school closed) "mourned her husband's death by wearing black the remainder of her life." She died in 1863.

In Ghering's Chapel cemetery, northeast of Fayetteville, there is an erect white marble slab, its facade centered by a beautifully-wrought design -- a tree of life within a circle of thorns. The script on this stone reads:

"W. A. JACKSON SMITH
died
Jan. 14, 1857
aged
27 years
'For lo He giveth his beloved sleep.'"

Nearby, a smaller monument, quaint with tender wording on it, shows the burial place of a young daughter of the Smith family some ten years before.

In contrast to these two memorials, no stone marks the grave of Lucretia Foster Smith nor that of her mother-in-law, Mary Woodruff Smith, who, it is thought, died also during the Civil War. Deferment until normal times, then procrastination, rather than intentional neglect, probably explains the fact that Uncle Presley failed to have the last resting places of these loved ones marked in his prosperous days.

During his active years, P.R. Smith was regarded as rather well to do. Like many of his contemporaries and associates, he at times owned a good deal of land. He once sold -- for \$100 -- a 40-acre tract, on part of which now stand the University Stadium and Field House.

Mr. Smith was affiliated with several civic, fraternal, and religious organizations of his time. As farmer, merchant, trader -- and politician, Uncle Presley Smith was actively interested in the county fairs: reports of these events contain items like, e.g., "P.R. Smith laid down his premium on the best quilt. "His wife, we read, was one of two ladies in charge of some domestic exhibits at the "Washington County Agricultural and Mechanical Society" fair in the fall of 1859.

As to Mr. Smith's fraternal relations, records of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Arkansas named "P. R. Smith" as Junior Warden of Washington Lodge No. 1 in the year 1848, and as Secretary of that body in 1850-52. P.R. Smith is listed as a member of Far West Chapter No. 1 in 1858, and during the 1860's as King and Royal Arch Captain. His next office was that of High Priest, in 1872. In 1863 Mr. Smith was appointed "visitor to St. John's College" at Little Rock. Presley R. Smith retained his membership in Far West Chapter until his final illness of 1887.

As a member of Mountain Lodge No. 15, IOOF, P. A. Smith represented that body in their joint purchase (with local Masons) of Fayetteville's Evergreen Cemetery, May 28, 1870. In the year 1879, he was Grand Treasurer of the Odd Fellows of Arkansas.

Mr. Smith was an early member of the Washington County Bible Society and later one of its managers. He and his first wife were Methodists. In the fall of 1853, when Rev. J. F. Green of Little Rock was in Fayetteville to promote the organization of a Presbyterian church, Mr. Smith was one of the Christian gentlemen of the town, who, together with several Presbyterians, attended a prayer meeting, on Sunday, October 9, at the home of J.B. Simson. Mr. Smith's second wife was a charter member and active worker of the First Presbyterian Church. On Christmas Eve of the year 1877 the Presbyterian Sunday School had a party and "were handsomely entertained" at the F.R. Smith residence.

F.R. Smith was one of the men who signed the call for a mass meeting of Washington County citizens on the 2d of February, 1861. The object of that gathering was to select delegates to the history-making state convention of the following month, which determined the secession of Arkansas from the Union.

During the ensuing conflict, Uncle Presley Smith was one of the few Southern men who remained in Fayetteville. When news reached town of the Battle of Wilson's Creek of August 10, 1861, Mr. Smith, together with Col. A.M. Wilson, Dr. C.L. Deane, and other friends, promptly made a trip up to the scene in order to gather details of the "First Appomattox of the West". F. R. Smith gave every type of service within his abilities to aid the Southern people in the vicinity of Fayetteville.

But this gentleman did more than that. The late State Senator R.J. Wilson once recalled: "Through the act of Presley Smith, for 25 years clerk of the county, all records of the Washington County court house were buried in Fincher's Cave during the Civil War, and through his (Smith's) foresight, this county is the only one of the 75 counties in Arkansas that owns a complete set of records since the county was formed -- in 1828." -- Fayetteville Daily Democrat, Jan. 7, 1935.

Some two years after the war, "Presley R. Smith aged about 55 years and Mary T. Daniels aged about 36 years" were married by H. M. Granade (A local Methodist minister) October 20, 1864. (Washington County Marriage Records, Book C, p.301.)

Miss Daniels, a graduate of Mount Holyoke, class of 1852, had been a teacher at the Fayetteville Female Seminary and later in the town. Mary True Daniels was the eldest of the six children of William H. and Eunice Kimball True Daniels of Plainfield, New Hampshire. Her relatives, the Daniels, the Trues, and the Kimballs, were among the oldest leading families of that section.

Presley R. and Mary T. Daniels Smith named their only son Stephen Kimball, the "Stephen" being in compliment to their good friend and neighbor, Mr. S.K. Stone. This son, who was called "Tim", rather than "Kim", is remembered locally as Tim Smith.

In the year 1872, according to the Weekly Democrat of March 16, Colonel Van Hoose celebrated the semi-centennial of his arrival in Fayetteville by giving a dinner. On that occasion F.R. Smith, responding to a toast to the merchants of the town, "spoke of his own arrival in Washington County a stranger, the kindnesses he had received, and the support he had invariably had and his gratefulness for it."

In other local press reports of the '70s, we find frequent mention of P. R. Smith: In June 1874, "Uncle Presley Smith" was the chosen speaker at a big Methodist picnic. At a Sabbath School picnic out at Rieff's Chapel in the summer of 1879, "Mr. Kelton was the organist" and Mr. Smith the speaker. His address was pronounced "sensible, persuasive and pathetic." On the 24th of June that year "Uncle Presley Smith was called to the stand and made us a good talk", reported an attendant of the Masonic celebration held at Maguire's Store.

In less than 14 years after his second marriage, Mr. Smith was again widowed. Mrs. Mary T. Smith passed away on the 23d of April, 1881. Her body was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, the funeral being conducted by her pastor, the Rev. S.W. Davies. "She was a noble Christian woman..and was devoted to her family with that energy that marked her whole career."

Two and a half years later, "P. R. Smith, aged 65., and Mrs. Eliza A. Porter, aged 36, were married November 20, 1883, by S.W. Davies." (Washington County Marriage Records, Book H, p.41.) Mrs. Porter, nee Graham was the widow of Bannister M. Porter. Acquaintances of the Smith family recall that this third wife of Uncle Presley's was a kind step-mother to Tim Smith.

This lad enrolled in the Preparatory Department of the A.I.U. He attended the University through his sophomore year. With his parentage Stephen Kimball Smith would be expected to receive a college education. Three years after his father's demise, S. K. Smith entered Vanderbilt University, where he was an engineering student from 1890 to 1892. He later went to Gary, Indiana. So far as Fayetteville acquaintances know, Kimball Smith is still living. When, on Christmas Eve of the year 1893, the estate of P. R. Smith was sold at auction, S. K. Smith, "a minor" bought the home place for "the sum of \$2,175" through his guardian, A.S. (Uncle Andy) Gregg. (Washington County Deed Book 66, p.590.)

The two other sons of P. R. Smith, by his first marriage, were Frank and Presley R. Frank's middle name, Foster, was for his sister-in-law, the former Miss. Lucretia Foster. F.F. Smith was a real estate agent and notary public in Fayetteville in the 1880's. He had the reputation of versatile business man -- and clever trader.

Uncle Presley's third son and namesake is mentioned in a story about the county fair of the year 1870: "A tournament closed the exercises of the day, the successful knight being Master Prely Smith, Knight of Ivanhoe." This youth attended the A.I.U. in the Preparatory Department at least two years from 1873. We have no knowledge of his subsequent career.

The only direct descendant of P. R. Smith with whom the writer is acquainted is a granddaughter of Mary E. Smith Holmes living in California. She is a high school teacher at Oakland. Uncle Presley Smith would have cause to be proud of this cultured young woman, his great-granddaughter.

Few are alive today who remember Uncle Presley Smith, once a familiar figure on the streets of Fayetteville. These few describe him as a man of medium height and build, with black mustache and beard.

Colonel Van Hoose left more detailed recollections of this old-time citizen in some clippings (undated) pasted in his personal scrapbook:

"Uncle Presley was a good judge of human nature and understood the art of making friends out of little boys and binding them to him as with hooks of steel, and these boys when grown up were sure to vote for him..He was opposed from principle to whiskey and whiskey selling. But he would buy all the cider and ginger cakes or watermelon on the ground, and invariably took pains to see that every barefoot hungry boy present got a good share.

"I never saw any failure on his part to do his whole duty in any capacity, either as a Mason or a Christian gentleman. (What higher eulogy!)

"His liberality to his church or to any charitable enterprise was the subject of remark by all who knew him during the years of his services and prosperity. He was the most accommodating public official I ever knew, always ready and willing to oblige a friend, whether he had money to pay or not...He was ever the poor man's friend, liberal and charitable to a fault. I dare say his money has helped to build more schools and church houses in Washington County than any other man's who ever lived and died in the county...He came to the relief of many whom others could not help in their hour of need..."

When Presley R. Smith died, the front-page account of his death, in the Sentinel of December 6, 1887, stated: "It is the opinion of our oldest citizens that he was in the neighborhood of 80 years old." Uncle Presley was not inclined to tell his age. We quote from the account mentioned above:

"DEATH OF PRESLEY R. SMITH

This venerable and esteemed citizen who has been confined to his home by the ravages of consumption for two or three years departed this life Saturday morning last about 2 o'clock. 'Uncle Presley', as such he has been affectionately known to our people for many years has been a citizen of this county for more than fifty years...He made an acceptable and faithful officer, as was attested by his repeated re-elections. He was a prominent member of the M.E.Church, South, and also one of the oldest members of the Masonic Lodge of this city. He was three times married, his last wife surviving him...He was buried Sunday morning in the cemetery at Gherin's chapel, Rev.B.H. Greathouse officiating."

News of the passing of P. R. Smith evoked further tribute from J. H. Van Hoose, printed in the same paper:

"'Uncle Presley Smith is dead' was the sad announcement upon our streets Saturday morning, the 3d inst...The writer had known him since early childhood -- about the year 1840, I think, I first saw him. He came to my father's humble home, which had been the year previous erected in the wilderness near the head of the Middle Fork of White River. He was then canvassing for the office of Sheriff, and during that first visit, by his kind words and pleasant manners, made me his friend, which friendship grew and strengthened with the years, and, I can truthfully say, was never broken.

"If it were possible to collect all the amounts due him for recording deeds, mortgages, marriages, and other official acts...for legal documents which have been written and acknowledged by him without charge and to add to these amounts he has paid for poor people who had not the money to pay their taxes or fines, it would amount to a sum sufficient to pay for the erection of a suitable monument over his last resting place higher than any of the beautiful and costly ones that now adorn our city cemetery."

One of those most grieved at Uncle Presley's death was his servant Charley. According to the late Mr. W.F. Buie, this man was one of the three Negroes who were living in Fayetteville in the year 1852. (Mr. Smith owned at least one other slave, Sam, a yellow man, whom he bought from William Quesenbury in 1856. (Washington County Deed Book J, p. 566) Charley survived his former master by a scarce two years. The Sentinel of November 29, 1889, in recording "the death of Charley Smith, aged about 70", stated:

"Prior to 1865 he was a slave of the late Presley R. Smith. His devotion to his old master in the latter years of his life was faithful, attesting the strong attachment which was a marked characteristic of the old regime in the South. Quite a few of our best white people attended his funeral. One Fayetteville lady remembers vividly that old time negro in a high hat driving with due dignity and pride the carriage of 'Uncle Presley Smith'."

James Preston Neal II

James P. Neal II suffered injuries in an automobile accident in Tulsa on July 8 that caused his death on Sunday, July 24. Mr. Neal was born at Prairie Grove in 1870, the son of J.P. Neal Sr., who came to Washington County in 1829, and later founded the town of Prairie Grove. His father's people helped establish Austin, Texas.

Mr. J.P. Neal II attended the Arkansas Industrial University and was graduated from the University of Missouri. He was admitted to the bar at Pawnee, where he practiced with the firm of Neal and Wrightsman. He lived about 20 years in St. Louis before moving to Tulsa in 1917 and was employed in the right-of-way and claims department of the Service Pipe Line Co. until his retirement about 15 years ago. Mr. Neal made the Cherokee Strip Run in the Territory, was a veteran of the Spanish-American War, a member of the United Spanish War Veterans, and a member of the First Christian Church of Tulsa where the funeral services were held. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Etta Neal, and three children: E.P., J.P. III, and Mrs. Al Hempel, all of whom are members of the Washington County Historical Society.

We met Mr. and Mrs. Neal at their home in Tulsa on December 12, 1954, at which time they gave us the manuscripts written by his father and now appearing in a series in FLASHBACK. We believe that Dr. H.G. Gantz, who conducted the funeral services, expressed our sentiments too when he said: "Today we pay tribute to a man who not only lived a long life ...but to a man who lived a good life, a life that blessed the country in which he was a citizen, the friends whom he knew and loved, the firms with which he was affiliated....the Kingdom of God to which he was devoted. I love and respect the pioneers who have made our country what it is today...Mr. Neal was a real pioneer."

-- Tom C. Feathers

Society Will Publish Dickson Diary

The discovery of the diary of Joseph L. Dickson for the years 1853 to 1861 is an exciting historical find for Washington County. Joseph L. Dickson was a partner in the firm of Stirman & Dickson, Fayetteville merchants. His diary, in the possession of his grandson, Jim Pettigrew, has been transcribed by Miss Rowena Gallaway and will be published in our Society's Bulletin Series.

Miss Gallaway says: "The Dickson diary is important historically because it gives a vivid picture of life in Fayetteville in the 1850's. Joseph L. Dickson was one of the town's leading merchants and his diary entries respecting business conditions in the mid-50's are authoritative and revealing. Also, he was prominent in church and social activities.....Mr. Dickson writes of the weather, trade, courts, elections, church revivals, hunting, fishing, an occasional evening party, company in his home. All in all, here is a picture of Fayetteville in the immediate ante-bellum years."

Here are a few entries from the Dickson diary:

"Nov. 23, 1853. Fixed up the steam mill, firm consisting of Stirman & Dickson, J. M. Tebbetts, Geo. D. Baker and John McPherson, under the name of Dickson & Co....Mr. McPherson left this morning for St. Louis to purchase machinery for the mill."

"Feb. 14, 1854. Stirman, lady and son left for the East by St. Louis route in company with Henry Rieff. I make no calculation of making money, as Stirman is not a good buyer."

"Feb. 27, 1854. Sold negro girl Peggy, given me by my father, to Alfred Wallace of VanBuren. Price obtained \$750. I dislike selling her very much. She was the first slave I ever sold."

"June 6, 1854. Went fishing to David McKinney's on White River with J. M. Tebbetts, Z. M. Pettigrew and Columbus Jackson. Caught a few small fish."

"June 23, 1854. John Ross, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, arrived today with his family."

June 29, 1854. Party at Female Seminary this evening. Grounds beautifully illuminated. Supper nothing to brag on. Folks well dressed but generally on credit."

"July 13, 1854. All the youngsters, male and female, pretty much gone picknicking and cave exploring to Middle Fork. I call it ticking."

"Oct. 27, 1854. Helped Quesenbury make up his paper for the mail. Sent several of my friends papers."

"Jan. 30, 1855. Clear and cold -- 8 degrees. Ice Haulers busy.

"Sept. 26, 1858. James Sutton died this morning of congestion. He was an honest man and at one time was perhaps the most extensive retail merchant in Arkansas. He was buried this afternoon at Judge Walker's burying ground beside his brother Seneca Sutton."

Washington County Marriages of 1857

Add 1856:

- July 31 - Andrew Robbins & Sarah Lewis, by Jonathan Stout JP
 Aug. 19 - Wm. B. Strickler & Luritha Ann Rieff, by Rev. W. H. Hulse
 Nov. 5 - Clark Terry & Tabitha Jane Long, by Rev. Riley Jones
 Nov. 27 - Lafayette Robinson & Malvina Beal, by Rev. Riley Jones
 Dec. 4 - James D. Walker & Mary Walker, by Rev. Thos. B. VanHorne
 Dec. 4 - Levi Mullin & Frances May, by A. W. Wasson JP
 Dec. 10 - James Barron & Sarah Packer, by R. S. Ryan JP
 Dec. 28 - Salathiel Shookman & Jane Meek, by Rev. Asaph Brown
 Dec. 31 - Wm. M. Lewis & Caroline Wright, by Rev. Thos. Stanford

1857

- Jan. 1 - G. L. Godard & Eliza J. Alberty, by Rev. George Morrow
 Jan. 1 - William Hern & Helen Wilson, by W. M. McClellan JP
 Jan. 11 - John Farley & Mary Neel, by John L. Matthews JP
 Jan. 20 - B. A. Carl & Sarah S. Parks, by L. G. Bassore JP
 Jan. 27 - T. G. Kelley & Sarah J. Woolsey, by A. W. Brownlee JP
 Jan. 27 - J. E. Pass & Susan P. West, by John L. Matthews JP
 Jan. 29 - Samuel Winkler & Mariah Barron, by J. R. S. Ryan JP
 Feb. 1 - Joseph P. Cardwell & Drusilla Holton, by A. W. Brownlee JP
 Feb. 1 - Stanford Denney & Peggy Johnson, by J. R. Oxford JP
 Feb. 3 - Wm. P. Flynn & Elizabeth Moppin, by Rev. J. J. Banks
 Feb. 5 - William Poston & Mary Odle, by Rev. Martin Thornberry
 Feb. 6 - John Johnson & Julia E. Marrs, by Rev. Jordan Banks
 Feb. 8 - Rufus Edmiston & Susannah Dickerson, by Rev. Riley Jones
 Feb. 8 - John W. Hutchens & Mary Jane Shumate, by W. P. London JP
 Feb. 10 - Martin K. Walker & Ann VanWinkle (16), by Rev. A. Carnahan
 Feb. 11 - Samuel Smith & Nancy Jane Cunningham, by D. B. Mason JP
 Feb. 16 - H. Edmiston & Elizabeth A. Godard, by Rev. Young Ewing
 Feb. 19 - Nelson Wood & Sarah Wilson, by Robert R. Williams JP
 Feb. 22 - Wm. C. Womack & Elizabeth Carder, by Sims Dearing JP
 Feb. 24 - William Scott & Sarah B. Potter, by Rev. Luther M. Bell
 Mar. 5 - Wm. T. Smith & Rebecca E. West, by Rev. Benj. Hall
 Mar. 11 - George W. Hoge & H. G. Caroline Bishop, by James C. Ford JP
 Mar. 12 - Lewis Forris (17) & Sarah Ellen Mills (14), by J. Stout JP
 Mar. 18 - Robert A. Scruggs & Rebecca Blake, by A. W. Brownlee JP
 Mar. 19 - James Harris & Tivona Ann Ramsey, by Wm. G. Shults JP
 Mar. 19 - Andrew Patrick & Nancy Watkins, by Jonathan Stout JP
 Mar. 19 - Wm. E. Shipley & Nancy E. Willey, by Rev. J. S. Robertson
 Mar. 14 - John R. Thomas & Elizabeth Barnes, by R. S. Ryan JP
 Mar. 21 - Calvin Chambers & Mary Ann Larramore, by J. Brewster JP
 Mar. 26 - Alexander Stewart & Minerva C. Jordan, by D. B. Mason JP
 Apr. 1 - Henry D. Fulbright & Mary E. Mecklin, by Rev. Adam Carnahan
 Apr. 2 - James Pearce & Nancy C. Quillan (14), by Rev. Wm. Vaughan
 ("All parties consentable")
 Apr. 8 - Thomas House & Harriett Thomas, by M. D. Frazor JP
 Apr. 13 - George Rein & Katharine Chrot, by Rev. Jas. S. Bartlett
 (at "house of John Hermann, Vineyard Township")
 Apr. 19 - Elisha B. Robinson & Margaret Hunter, by L. G. Bassore JP
 Apr. 26 - James R. Asher & Eliza Riddick, by Rev. Jesse Keller
 Apr. 26 - Elijah Harmon & Mary McCoy, by Tilman D. Wisenor JP
 May 3 - Hugh Ennis & Elizabeth Jane Bradshaw, by B. R. Bingham JP
 May 10 - Josiah Marcus & Alzira Bean, by James W. Greer JP
 May 10 - Aaron S. Gibson & Artemicia J. Baggett, by Rev. Benj. Hall
 May 14 - William Brown & Elizabeth Rice, by J. R. Oxfrod, JP
 May 28 - Carter Odle & Elizabeth Ann Gage, by Willard P. Upham JP
 May 31 - Wm. Henry Torenzey Dow Hill & ----- Asher, by J. G. Craig JP

- May 10 - James E. Norwood & Mary E. McKinney, by Jonathan Newman, Judge
 May 14 - Wm. J. Strain & Evaline A. Williams, by Rev. L. M. Bell
 May 20 - George Hern & Mary A. White, by Rev. Samuel Cox
 June 9 - Linch Banks & Elizabeth Long, by Rev. Wesley W. Lucas
 June 24 - Andrew B. Davis & Lucinda E. Hawk, by A. W. Wasson JP
 July 7 - Franklin Witherspoon & Hannah Crozier, by Rev. Saml. Cox
 July 9 - Oliver Karnes & Mary J. Woolsey, by Rev. Wm. Ingram
 July 19 - Newton C. Riley & Eliza Dodd, by James W. Greer JP
 July 23 - Jacob P. Hendricks (Mo.) & Perniney Emeline Mullinaux,
 by Rev. John Barnes
 July 23 - James F. Bates & Margaret J. Crawford, By Rev. B. H. Pierson
 July 23 - Henry J. Jackson & Nancy Witt, by John S. Matthews JP
 July 29 - George W. Howery & Eliza Fannan, by R. P. Willett JP
 Aug. 2 - Wm. W. Martin & Louisa Oxford, by Rev. Benj. M. Routh
 Aug. 3 - Wm. J. Butler & Martha E. Stacy, by A. W. Wasson JP
 Aug. 4 - Fletcher Clayton & Nancy W. Caruthers, by Rev. Moses Dutton
 Aug. 10 - Humphrey Enyart & Cassinder Neely, by Rev. John Buchanan
 Aug. 11 - Levi Boone & Sarah Harris, by M. D. Frazor JP
 Aug. 22 - James R. Wilson & Nancy Jane Huse (?), by Rev. Wm. Reed
 Aug. 25 - James W. Phipps & Manerva Looper, by Rev. Jesse Keller
 Sept. 3 - Thos. F. Baker & Louisa E. Shannon, by Rev. W. T. Thornberry
 Sept. 3 - B. H. Brotherton & July A. Cavin, by Larkin Tankersly JP
 Sept. 6 - Wm. Elms & Cynthia Smith, by Rev. G. C. McWilliams
 Sept. 9 - Hugh Pettigrew & Mary M. Barrington, by Rev. Thos. Stanford
 Sept. 10 - N. H. Guthary & Sarah Jane Holt, by Rev. John Barnes
 Sept. 10 - John W. V. Davis & Elizabeth A. Winn, by Rev. Wm. Ingram
 Sept. 10 - Jesse Adkins & Elizabeth McWilliams, by Jeremiah Brewster JP
 Sept. 13 - Jesse Crawford & Mary Strickland, by Rev. Wm. Ingram
 Sept. 16 - Wm. S. Hanna & Emily J. Barron, by Rev. J. S. Robertson
 Sept. 20 - Jonathan C. Qualls & Elizabeth Housewright, by J. C. Ford JP
 Sept. 24 - Jesse Farley & Mary Jane Clary, by Rev. Jesse Keller
 Sept. 24 - Thomas A. Hinson & Sarah C. Gregg, by Rev. B. M. Routh
 Sept. 23 - James K. English & Ann E. Sexton, by Rev. Samuel Cox
 Sept. 24 - John Lynch (Sebastian Co.) & Mariba Rogers, by M. W. McClellan JP
 Oct. 1 - Pleasant Harris & Martha Wilburn, by Rev. W. T. Thornberry
 Oct. 8 - Jesse Fletcher & Sindrilla Wood, by Wm. G. Shults JP
 Oct. 11 - Jasper H. Bowland (18) (Franklin Co.) & Prudence Putman (14),
 by Rev. Wm. Ingram. Consent affidavit by Wm. Putman, Sen.
 Oct. 12 - James E. David & Martha E. Woolsey, by Rev. J. Banks
 Oct. 8 - Levi Johnston & Henryetta Qualls (15), by Larkin Tankersly JP
 Oct. 14 - Wm. A. Hunter & Mandy Fitzgerald, by Rev. John Holcomb
 Oct. 15 - L. M. Brown & Martha A. Dunlap, by L. G. Bassore JP
 Oct. 18 - John T. West & Martha J. Hendricks, by J. W. Greer JP
 Oct. 25 - Willis F. Polson & Martha Jane Cabe, by Jonathan Newman, Judge
 Oct. 25 - Elisha M. Jennings & Ruth Ann Combs, by Wm. H. Holcomb JP
 Oct. 26 - Lewis F. Campbell & Sarah Ann Durham, by Rev. Adam Carnahan
 Oct. 25 - John Oliver (82) & Polly Carrel or Polly Oliver (70), by
 Rev. Samuel Cox. "This was a re-marriage."
 Oct. 29 - Wm. Sharp & Matilda E. Smith, by L. Tankersly JP
 Nov. 4 - John Barron & Mary Hanna, by Rev. J. S. Robertson
 Nov. 5 - John Stafford & Mary Holcomb, by Wm. H. Holcomb JP
 (Consent affidavit by Pleasant Stafford, father)
 Nov. 5 - J. N. Sharman & Aramissa E. Baker, by Rev. G. Pylant
 Nov. 8 - Thomas Moore & Auzalia Knight, by Sims Dearing JP
 Nov. 8 - George W. Hock & Laura Lynn, by Rev. Jesse Keller
 Nov. 16 - Hamilton Malicoat & Nancy Skinner, by L. G. Bassore JP
 Nov. 18 - Hugh M. Boswell & Louisa Riley, by R. S. Ryan JP

Some Interesting Walker Mementoes

L. E. Howard, curator of the University Museum, has permitted us to make photostats of some of the documents in the David Walker collection of the Museum. These were presented to the University by the late Miss Sue Walker, granddaughter of Judge David Walker. The documents include:

1. A proclamation dated Washington, D.C., May 10, 1846, and signed in the handwriting of A. Yell, calling on all able-bodied citizens to enlist for the War with Mexico.

2. A photograph (8x10) of the quilt made by Mrs. Rebecca Washington in 1812 and now the property of the Mt. Vernon Association. On the back of the picture, in Miss Sue Walker's handwriting, is a history of the quilt. It states that Rebecca Washington (buried on East Mountain, Fayetteville) was the wife of Whiting Washington whose father Warner Washington was first cousin to Gen. George Washington (their fathers, John and Augustine, being brothers). Miss Sue Walker was a great-granddaughter of Rebecca Washington.

3. Four letters from prominent Confederate women expressing appreciation for their selection as honorary members of the Southern Memorial Association. The letters, dated in 1901, are from Frances Kirby-Smith Wade, daughter of Gen. E. Kirby-Smith; Varina Jefferson Davis, widow of the Confederate President, (letter written in Portland, Maine); Mary Custis Lee, daughter of Gen. Robert E. Lee; and Katie Walker Behan, first President-General of the Confederate Southern Memorial Assn.

4. Manuscript letter written by Albert Pike (218 Third St. N.W., Washington, 14 February, 1883) to Senator J. D. Walker.

Newspaper Published in Fayetteville Courthouse in 1862

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Malcolm McLean, member of the WCHS who worked as an archivist at the University of Texas during the summer, we have been able to examine photostats of some rare Civil War material pertaining to Washington County. This material is from the John Henry Brown collection in the University of Texas Library. It includes four issues of THE WAR BULLETIN, printed by Brown in the courthouse at Fayetteville in 1862, and Brown's diary written in 1861-62.

Brown, who held the rank of Major in the Confederate army, was a personal friend of Gen. Ben McCulloch. The diary gives a detailed account of the disposition of the General's possessions after his death at Pea Ridge and of the removal of his body to Austin, Texas. The diary also gives many sidelights on life in Fayetteville during the early months of the War. For example, Brown was accustomed to spend the week-ends with his friends, The Cunninghams at Mt. Comfort, or with the Zeb Pettigrews "2 miles south of town". We hope to publish some of the Brown material in future issues of FLASHBACK.

Old Brick Houses Discussed at Roundtable

The October session of the WCHS Round Table was held Oct. 4 in the Mountain Inn. Miss Grace Albright gave a paper on "Old Brick Houses of Washington County". This was followed by a lively discussion, in which information about several other old brick houses was brought to light. Miss Albright's paper will be published in an early issue of FLASHBACK.

Muster Roll of First Confederate Company Organized in Fayetteville

by Robert R. Logan

This is the Muster Roll of Capt. Thomas J. Kelly's Company H, First Regiment of Arkansas Mounted Volunteers commanded by Col. DeRosey Carroll, called to the service of the State of Arkansas by Act of the State Convention, at Camp Walker in Benton County on the 28th day of May 1861 to serve the term of six months. The Company was organized by Capt. Thomas J. Kelly at Fayetteville in the month of April 1861, and arrived at Camp Walker on the 29th of May, a distance of 40 miles.

Kelly, Thomas J., Captain
Boone, Lafayette, 1st Lieut.
Ferguson, James A., 2nd Lieut.
Smithson, Sam H., 3rd Lieut.
Thompson, Wm., Bugler
Beavers, L. P., 1st Sgt.
Parks, Jno O., 2nd Sgt.
Moore, Jas. B., 3rd Sgt.
Hensley, Jas. B., 4th Sgt.
Wisener (?), Wm., 5th Sgt.
Anderson, Harry, 1st Corp.
Jones, Jas. L. W., 2nd Corp.
Grissom, Sam, 3rd Corp.
Roark, Isaac, 4th Corp.

Allen, Abram	Frazer, Jas. K.	Pollard, John R.
Allen, Wm. E.	Flynn, Michael	Pollard, Jas. H.
Allen, George E.	Goddard, Geo. C.	Pyeatte, Preston J.
Anderson, Wiley	Goddard, Jno. W.	Pyeatte, Wm. H.
Bryant, Weston	Greer, Ben F.	Pearce, Audrey L.(?)
Booth, John	Hughes, S. F.	Pettigrew, Isaac
Booth, Wm. T.	Howell, J. H.	Pearson, David
Billingsley, J.D.	Holcomb, S. Z.	Pearson, Levi
Carlisle, R.D.	Holcomb, Geo. P.	Polk, R. B.
Culver, George W.	Holcomb, Wm.	Rieff, Robt. S.
Carney, H. T.	Hargiss, R. W.	Rieff, Lem (?), W.T.
Crook, Eli C.	Hewitt, Jas. H.	Ross, Virgil A.
Cres--p, Jack	Isen, Wm.	Roberts, Wm. J.
Cavin, J. L.	Jobe, Wm. P.	Reavis, J. H.
Crawford, J. W.	Kidd, F. M.	Rainwaters, H. D.
Cr-----, Thos. J.	Kidd, L. P.	Reagan, C. H.
Cunningham, Sol T	Kifer, Wm. T.	Son, Wm. F.
Chenowith, J.J.	Long, J. H.	Sawyers, H. W.
Davis, Manning	Lasham (?), J.M.	Sawyers, Jephtha
Chenowith, N.A.	Lawhorn, Nat	Stanfield, J. A.
Daugherty, D.M.	Masters, Wm. R.	Smith, A. J.
Denton, Geo. O.	Mathis, J. H.	Steel, Jno. B.
Eggers, John M.	Murray, Wm. T.	Sanders, W. J.
Edens, John	Murray, Alex G.	Thornhill, J. T.
Early, Jas. G.	Marrs, Wm.	Tankersley, J. B.
Evins, Geo. W.	Malone, Cornelius	Young, John H.
Edmiston, S.M.	Machey, A. J.	

The horses and equipment of this company were valued by a board of officers composed of Capt. W.T. Neal, Lieuts. M.O. Davidson and J.F. Rieff, and the assessed value shown on the muster roll opposite each name.

This company is commemorated in Fayetteville by a bronze plaque on the north side of the brick building on the northeast corner of the Square, occupied (1955) by Hunt's. The tablet is on the Center street side and reads: "Near this spot a flag was presented to the first Confederate company organized in Washington County, Co. E, 2nd Cavalry Regt., Arkansas Volunteers, Capt. T. J. Kelly, May, 1861. Placed by Mildred Lee Chapter, U.D.C., 1926." The muster roll shows this to have been Company H, but it became Company E after a reorganization on reaching camp.

This muster roll is in the Clara B. Eno collection of the Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock. Miss Eno collected much material which she was no longer able to organize. When classification of the numerous items in the Eno collection is completed, much valuable source material bearing on northwest Arkansas should become available.

(Editor's note: After Professor Logan prepared the foregoing muster roll of Capt. Thomas J. Kelly's company, Mrs. Margaret Smith Ross of the Arkansas History Commission discovered a letter written by Captain Kelly to Governor Rector on April 9, 1861, in which Kelly asks that the company he had raised be commissioned. The letter, with its original spelling, reads as follows. -- WJL)

Faittsville, Ark April the 9 1861

Gov H M Rector

Sir after my respects I rite you a few liens I mad out my ruport and sertificit of the officers and ruported to Lieutenant Blackmore as the colonel thas left the sate of 2 ridgment Lut. Blackmore never sent them on Ther was an oposion company got up buy the other party and I have herd they have sent for ther comitions.

You ar aprised my company is the oldest they said they woud send on my surtificate You will act on this if you have comition any other company let me know and whether ther cant be any other company comition or not It is well nown my company is the oldst and a full company Mr Mars company don a mount of a half of a company All thoe this captin is south but his men ant my company is all suthern rite men I rite these fiew liens in a hery for I did not think any wone wood hold my ruport back

Please rite to me on the subject I am yours

Thos. J. Kelly

Hon Gov H M Rector

(Captain Kelly's statement that his men are all Southern Rights men while the men in Captain Marrs' company "ain't", bears out my comment on the Rieff letters in this issue of FLASHBACK -- namely, that the Washington County militia companies of 1860 were divided in allegiance and were found on opposite sides when war came six months later. Captain Kelly's letter is endorsed on the back as follows: "Mr. Matheny will see if the Coms have issued in this case. H.M.R." -- WJL)

Cavalry War in Washington County
by Robert R. Logan

War is usually described from reports. The Company Book of Co. B, Monroe's Regiment, Cabell's Brigade (in the Eno Collection, Arkansas History Commission) presents the worm's-eye view of a Confederate cavalry company. This book was preserved by George W. Dickinson, a member of the company, and sent to the Commission by his daughter, Ruth Dickinson Berry (Mrs. Elliot R. Berry) of Bentonville. The company, organized at Monticello, May 12, 1862, saw service common to the brigade.

The Company Book, written in fine script and good ink, contains orders, oaths, enlistment contracts and ledger pages with the service records of each member necessary for administration of the company. Most interesting is a log of the company's movements. To these cavalymen war was not glory. It was hard riding, fatigue and discomfort, as they carried on the ceaseless patrol activity required by armies of their time. Battle was an incident. The men were hungry, tired, wet, cold, sick and sometimes scared. Nevertheless they carried on and even could see the joke on themselves when they "stampeded". The parts of the log pertaining to Washington County are abstracted as written.

Abstracts from the "Log of O'Neil's Cavalry Co."

1862

- Nov. 10. Marched through Van Buren.
 11. Marched to Cane Hill -- General Marmaduke overtook us.
 13. Marched to Camp Rector. Federals attacked pickets at Dutch Mills and we stampeded back to our old camp at Cane Hill.
 14. Awakened by the cannon -- Scouting has found no foe.
 15. Left camp without rations or anything else except what we could pack on our horses at one o'clock A.M. Sent trains and sick back to VanBuren. Rode 12 miles and fed. 20 more and fed again and at dark started again -- rode all night in a cold rain and as dark as a pocket.
 16. Rode to Tahlequah in Indian Nation.
 17. Rode 25 miles in rain and lay down on the wet ground without supper or forage to sleep.
 18. Rode all day -- crossed Arkansas River twice -- cold, hungry and wet.
 19. Camped 12 miles from Ft. Smith.
 20. Marched to Ft. Smith and from there to Dripping Springs -- cold, hungry, sick.
 21. Marched 10 miles toward Cane Hill.
 22. Left camp at 9 P.M. and marched all night -- to Evansville.
 23. Dismounted and hunted for Feds -- who were not. Camp near Dutch Mills. -- Col. Monroe and Col. Rieff and 2 others hunt Prairie Chickens and found all gone.
 24. Speech from Carroll -- marched to Cane Hill -- flag of truce to Federals at Fayetteville.
 26. Horses saddled all night -- awful cold.
 28. In line of battle at Cane Hill all night -- fought feds from daylight to dark -- retreated eight miles before them and disputed every inch of ground -- our force 1100 -- theirs good -- lost 3 men -- marched to Oliver's in night and found sick and train there.
 29. Marched to Dripping Springs -- camp on Webber Creek -- foraged in Nation.

- Dec. 4. Marched to Lee's Creek on Cane Hill road.
 5. Marched a short distance -- Infantry passing -- camped in field and burned rails - total eclipse of moon.
 6. Marched to Boston Mountains and had a little skirmish in eve with Feds -- "Nobody hurt".
 7. Fought the Federals at Prairie Grove -- armistice.
 8. In camp on battlefield until noon -- Marched to Oliver's under flag of truce.
 9. Marched to Oliver's and camped.
 10. Marched to Natural Dam.
 11. Marched to Van Buren -- camp 1 mile south of town on river.
 12. Started for Lewisburg to find corn and recruit.
-

1863

- Apr. 10. Left Van Buren for Ozark -- train on Long Prairie grazing.
 16. Left Ozark with Carroll's Regt and Hughey's Battery for Fayetteville -- marched at night the 17th and reached Fayetteville "about an hour by sun" and fought three hours. Co. B made three charges -- took and held the Davis house -- had four men killed and 12 slightly wounded -- retreated to Ozark.

From Goodspeed's "Reminiscent History"

The following extracts, pertaining to Washington County, are from "A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region", published by Goodspeed Brothers, Chicago, in 1894. -- R.R.L.

In the article on Charles R. Fulbright, "A Reminiscent History" says his son, John Y. Fulbright, "father of our subject, was born on his father's farm near Fulbright Springs, May 2, 1836, and received his education at Arkansas College, at Fayetteville, Ark..." (p.478)

An account of the battle of Fayetteville appears on p.321 of "A Reminiscent History", in the biographical sketch of William E. McDowell. (McDowell was a home guard who farmed and dodged bushwhackers.)

"Growing tired of a mixture of farming and warfare, he on August 10, 1862, enlisted in Company G, First Arkansas Cavalry, under the celebrated Capt. R.E.M. Mack, with which he faithfully served until September 1865.... His first engagement was at Yocum Creek, Ark., where the Federals were badly used up.... and at Prairie Grove in December 1862, where his regiment lost their entire wagon and ambulance train, with their loading, teams and all, except one ambulance which carried the regimental flag. His regiment lost, in killed and prisoners, sixty odd men on that memorable day.... The last engagement in which he took part was with General Fagan at Fayetteville, Ark., when Price was returning from his last raid in Missouri. On that occasion his regiment alone held the town against seven thousand assailants, and on that day he fired eighty-four rounds, the enemy surrounding the town, driving the regiment into the forest at 8 o'clock A.M., and keeping them there until night came and gave relief..."

Society Visits Viney Grove, Rhea's Mill, Old Tilley Home

One of our Society's most enjoyable pilgrimages was held Aug. 28. Some 150 members and friends visited the Prairie Grove valley, with stops at Viney Grove, Rhea's Mill, and the H.E. Buchanan home. At the Viney Grove church, Mrs. J. H. Zellner, member of the pioneer Pyeatt family, related incidents of the past. Tom Feathers, the Society's expert on old postoffices, gave the list of Viney Grove postmasters and dates.

At Rhea's Mill, after an inspection of the old cemetery and the grave of P.V. Rhea, first mayor of Fayetteville, and of the new cemetery where are buried Wm. H. Rhea and his wife, Elizabeth Powell Rhea, and Dr. Samuel D. Powell and his wife, Sarah A. Burns -- as well as many other pioneers -- the group met in the village church for an informal program. Chief topic of interest was the old mill that figured prominently in the history of the Civil War battles of that section.

From Rhea's Mill the pilgrimage went to the H.E. Buchanan home where Dr. and Mrs. Buchanan threw open this lovely 100-year-old home for the inspection of more than 200 visitors. The house was built in 1855 by John Tilley, grandfather of Mrs. Buchanan. It is constructed of brick, hand-made on the Tilley farm. The walls of the 2-story house are 16 inches thick. The house has the original staircase, woodwork and floors (heart-pine) and contains some of the original furniture. After the serving of refreshments, the group gathered on the lawn in front of the house and heard Dr. Buchanan tell the history of the old home. It escaped destruction during the Civil War because it was occupied by three families, chiefly women and children. Dr. Buchanan related that he had found inscriptions on the walls of the upstairs rooms, the oldest being the signature of "Capt. J.P. Carnahan CSA" and the date 1864.

Dr. Fount Richardson, president of our Society, thanked Dr. and Mrs. Buchanan for their hospitality and was seconded by enthusiastic applause from the audience. The combination of the visit to the pioneer settlements of Viney Grove and Rhea's Mill, plus the superb hospitality of the Buchanans, made this pilgrimage one long to be remembered by all who were in attendance. One WCHS member who was unable to be present wrote the following letter to the Northwest Arkansas Times:

"To the Editor:

"It was with regret that my husband and I were unable to go on the Washington County historical tour August 28, but as I read the article in the Times, things came to my mind. My grandfather, Capt. J.P. Carnahan, took his wife and three children to the home of John Tilley for the duration of the war. The other family there for the duration of the war was that of Jim White. Mrs. White, Mrs. Tilley and Mrs. Carnahan were sisters.

"My father, Alfred Carnahan, was born in 1859; his sisters, Mrs. Quaile (Evelyn) born in 1861; Mrs. Moore (Mary Clem) in 1863. The two girls are still living at this time in Avoca, Ark.

"I have heard my father tell the following. The Federal Army was camped in the valley west of the Tilley home prior to the battle of Prairie Grove. My father remembered the battle very well. He said the vibration from the artillery knocked the pans off the walls. While camped near Tilley's, the soldiers used to take Evelyn to camp and they taught her to swear and her mother had to mete out severe punishment to her to break the habit.

"One day some soldiers came to the Tilley home and took possession of the house. They went upstairs and climbed into bed with their muddy boots on. They were chewing tobacco and spit on the white plastered walls until the juice ran onto the floor. Mrs. Tilley went to the camp and reported it to the general. My father said he remembered the general coming back with her. He had on a fine uniform and a big, shiny sword. He turned the broad side of the sword and clubbed the men out of the house, promising this would not happen again. In 1909 those tobacco stains were still to be seen.

"My father told me when the soldiers were drilling, the children would all go to the door to watch. Throughout his entire life, even when he was old, he said his dreams were always of companies of marching soldiers.

"The Tilley home is indeed one of the most historical in the state and it is very fitting that one of this generation owns it.

Mrs. Maurice T. Cruse"

Biographical Sketch of Early-Day Resident

(Editor's note: The mention of Columbus Jackson in a recent issue of FLASHBACK has caused one of our readers to copy the following biographical sketch of Mr. Jackson from "Sketch of the Jackson Family in America" compiled by Dr. Clayton Keith of Louisiana, Mo., and printed in 1916 by the Pike County News Press. Our correspondent notes that "Mr. Columbus Jackson's grandfather was a first cousin of Andrew Jackson and a brother of Stonewall Jackson's grandfather.")

COLUMBUS JACKSON

Columbus Jackson, second son of Julius C. Jackson, born January 20, 1825, in Kentucky; died September 25, 1879. Married Virginia Applebury near Prairieville, Mo., in 1848. Spent most of his life at Fayetteville, Ark., engaged in merchandising. He was noted for his good business qualities and his unvarying cheerfulness. His mother said, "I never saw Columbus cast down." Reverses were borne with as much good cheer as his successes in life. He and his family helped largely to make that town what it was -- one of the best in the state. His mother returning from a visit to Fayetteville said: "Everyone seemed to know and respect Columbus. He seemed to have the confidence and love of all classes, especially of those who needed the counsel of an honest wise man." During the Civil War it was a notable fact that many widows and orphans came to him not only for advice but for assistance.

While serving in the Confederate army, his health gave way and he never enjoyed good health afterward. He moved his family to Sulphur Springs, Texas, in the fall of 1862 and after peace was declared moved them back to Fayetteville where he again engaged in the mercantile business. His stock of goods was purchased annually from Crow, McCreary & Co. of St. Louis, relatives of the Jackson family, and taken through in wagons.

In 1874 he bought and improved a farm $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the postoffice. Here he built a 2-story brick residence, where his widow is living to this day, enjoying good health and almost 89 years of age. His home was noted for its hospitality. He had nine children: William Julius, born and died in 1849; Lysses, born in 1850, died in 1853; Everett A., born in 1852; Wayman Crow, born in 1855; Ulysses, born in 1858; Mary Frances, born in 1862, died in 1863; Lynn, born 1862, died 1863; Virginia Alice, born in 1867; and Henry Rush, born in 1869.

Judge Walker Land Patents Loaned to Our Society

Wythe Walker of New York, who holds membership in our Washington County Historical Society, has loaned us 15 original documents pertaining to land transfers between the years 1837 and 1857. These deeds, patents, and certificates covered lands purchased by Judge David Walker of Fayetteville, great-grandfather of Wythe Walker.

All but one of these rare old documents were issued by the General Land Office of the U.S., Washington, D.C. They are printed on parchment and signed by the secretaries of Presidents Van Buren, Tyler, Pierce and Buchanan. Two of the certificates are "Choctaw Certificates" and one is a grant of "Bounty Land" to a soldier of the War of 1812.

From a Washington County viewpoint these old papers are interesting because of the names of pioneers, including Archibald Yell, Mathew Leeper, Wm. E. Throckmorton, Samuel O. Harris, Spencer Fine, W. S. Oldham, Wm. D. Reagan, John T. Clark, Stephen B. Enyart, and others.

The oldest deed in the collection is dated July 18, 1837. It is from A. Yell and Maria his wife to Alfred Wallace and transfers 16 acres "beginning at a stake in the branch on the western boundary line of the 40-acre entry No. 1888 as recorded in the Fayetteville Land Office, etc." This was in Section 21, Township 16. The deed was witnessed by Onesimus Evans and R.W. Reynolds (J.P.) and was recorded Oct. 20, 1837, by B.H. Smithson, Circuit Clerk. The recording fee was \$2.12. Both deed and "Certificate of Record" were printed by Wm. E. Woodruff of Little Rock, the founder of the Arkansas Gazette.

There are five land patents signed "Martin VanBuren by M. V. Burlup, secretary". They are as follows:

Certificate No. 342, August 20, 1838, to Spencer Fine of Washington County, Ark. 80 acres in Sec. 1, Twp 16N, R. 30W.

Certificate No. 675, August 20, 1838, to William Edward Throckmorton of Washington County, Ark. 80 acres in Sec. 14, Twp 16N, R. 30W.

Certificate No. 391, August 20, 1839, to David Walker. 40 acres in Sec. 4, Twp 15N, R. 32W.

Certificate No. 1491, Sept. 20, 1839, to Samuel Overton Harris. 80 acres in Sec. 9, Twp 16N, R. 30W.

Certificate No. 2351, Sept. 20, 1839, to David Walker. 80 acres in Sec. 19, Twp 16N, R. 30W.

Four "Pre-emption Certificates" are dated March 10, 1843, and are signed by "John Tyler, President, by R. Tyler, Secretary." They are:

Certificate No. 1768, March 10, 1843, to David Walker. 80 acres in Sec. 28, Twp 16N, R. 30W.

Certificate No. 3283, March 10, 1843, to Archibald Yell, Mathew Leeper and David Walker of Washington County, Ark. 80 acres in Sec. 1, Twp 16N, R. 34W. in District of Lands subject to sale at Fayetteville, Ark.

Certificate No. 3559, March 10, 1843, to David Walker and William Simpson Oldham, assignees of Silas Yarborough. 80 acres in Sec. 29, Twp 20N, R. 30W.

Certificate No. 4107, March 10, 1843, to David Walker, assignee of John Thomas Clark. 78 acres in Sec. 1, Twp 19N, R. 31W.

Certificate No. 4057, March 10, 1843, to David Walker, Williamson Simpson Oldham, and William Denton Reagan, assignees of Samuel Quinton senior. 160 acres in Sec.31, Twp 18N, R.33W.

Other documents in the Walker collection are:

Certificate No. 5525, Nov.15, 1854, to Stephen B. Enyart of Washington County, Ark. 120 acres in Sec.14, Twp 16N, R.29W.

Patent, Feb.20, 1857, from Record of Miscellaneous Military Grants, Vol. 321, Page 327. "According to Act of 1850 granting Bounty Land to certain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in the Military Service of the United States", Warrant No.73,598 for 40 acres, issued in favor of Susannah, widow of Te-lah-ska-skie, Private in Captain Shoe Boots' company, Cherokee Volunteers, War of 1812. This land was located in Sec.35, Twp 19N, R.30W, in district of lands subject to sale at Fayetteville, Ark. The patent is signed "Franklin Pierce, President, by G.H.Jones, Secretary".

Certificate No. 634 (Choctaw Certificate), April 2, 1857, to David Walker, assignee of Yo-ta, representative of Ona-ho-ka. Several parcels of land, comprising 320 acres in all, and located in Sections 4, 5, 6, 9 and 11 of Twp. 18N, Range 20W, in district of lands subject to sale at Fayetteville, Ark. Signed "James Buchanan, President, by G.H. Jones, Secretary".

Certificate No. 800 (Choctaw Certificate), April 2, 1857, to David Walker, assignee of Mak-in-tubbe, Ah-pa-sa-te-mah, Tik-bah-te-mah, representatives of Fa-la-mah-ho-ka, deceased. This certificate covers 324 acres of land located in Sec.32, Twp 19N, R.30W, and in Sec. 9, Twp 20N, R.29W, and in Sections 23,25,26 of Twp 20N, R.18W.

Society Has Picture Exhibit for Its Quarterly Meeting

The regular quarterly meeting of the WCHS was held Sunday afternoon, Sept. 25, at the Washington Hotel. The program consisted of exhibits of pictures and other historical material, with explanatory talks by the owners. Among the things shown were:

An original print of "The Arkansas Traveler", shown by O.E.Williams.

Lithographed print of John Ridge (1836), as well as some family pictures, shown by Miss Rowena Gallaway.

Daguerreotypes and other pictures of the Rhea family, shown by Mrs. Cornelia McIlroy Stuart. This exhibit included the old brass key to the Rhea's Mill postoffice.

Old photographs of Farmington pioneers, shown by Ralph Shreve.

Mrs. L.W.Searcy showed an old hand-woven coverlet made by members of the Fancher family who died in the Mountain Meadows massacre.

Other pictures shown: Fayetteville's last surviving Negro slaves, photo owned by P.R.Green; Washburn painting of Albert Pike, owned by the University Library; Quapaw Club's photo of Vol Walker, photo owned by Karl Greenhaw, Battery A, stationed in Fayetteville during the War, photo owned by Miss Suzanne Lighton; "Battle of Pea Ridge", lithograph owned by W.J.Lemke; first issue of Fayetteville Daily Leader and photo of its first editor, George Stockard; and several frames from various University departments.

Woods Collection Made Available to Historians

The discovery, by Mayor Alvin Seamster of Bentonville, of a collection of several hundred items (letters, legal documents, military orders, notes, bills, tax receipts) makes available much valuable material pertaining to the history of Benton County from its organization in 1836 to the war years 1861-1865.

The papers are the property of Bryce Dickson Woods and were once the private and official records of his grandfather, Samuel P. Woods.

Since the history of Benton and Washington counties, is so closely interwoven, I made a trip to Bentonville to examine the Woods collection. With Mayor Seamster's help, I selected the following items for publication in FLASHBACK. Other items will probably appear in an early issue of the Benton County Pioneer. -- WJL.

1

Recd of Saml Woods sixteen dollars 75¢ in full of his acct 22nd Nov. 1831, with us the 23d Feby 1832. -- Wm. A. Byham & Co.

2

Recd of Samuel P. Woods his acct in full for 1839. Mar 3rd, 1840.
Blythe & Spring

3

Robert Dickson to Anthony & Brodie, Dr., May 23, 1835. Bill for \$2.88 for indigo, madder and coffee.

4

December 8th, 1838. Received of Robt Dickson two dollars & 50 cents by the hand of William Woods in full of his acct up to this day.

George P. Wallace

(Note: George Wallace was first County Judge of Benton County.)

5

State of Arkansas County of Benton April Term 1839

On motion and by petition filed, it was ordered by the Court that Nathaniel Yarbrough, Julius Blaylock and Samuel P. Woods be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners to view and mark out a road, the most practicable route commencing at the Town of Bentonville and terminating at the Washington County line in a direction to Huntsville in Madison County, and that they report to the next Term of this Court. Given under my hand in Bentonville this 20th day of April, A.D. 1839.

Jno. B. Dickson, Clerk

6

State of Arkansas, County of Benton: I, David Mitchell, do hereby apportion the following hands to Samuel Woods, overseer of road No. 1 from Bentonville to High's mill, viz:

William H. Woods	J. G. Walker	----- Fuller
David P. Maxwell	W. T. Walker	----- Olvis
Reuben Clark	----- Henderson	Hiram Clark
P.W.Nash and hands	Andrew Buller	John Breathwaite

Also any able bodied hands between the age of 45 and 16 years who may reside ten days previous to working in the following bounds: viz east of Bentonville and west of the Township line and north of Proctor's and south of one-half mile north of your road and that you notify all three days previous to working all personally or by writing of the time and place of meeting and the kind of tools to work with and that you return all delinquents to some justice of the peace. Given under my hand this 12th day of May 1840. David Mitchell J.P.

7

Received of John Woods two dollars and fifty cents his tax in full for the year A.D. 1853. John Galbreath, Sheriff

8

(A note)

Fayetteville, 26 Feb., 1841

\$200. Six months after date we promise to pay to the Bank of the State of Arkansas, the sum of 200 Dollars, negotiable and payable at the Branch of said Bank at Fayetteville, without defalcation, for value received. Witness our hands; and the Cashier of said Branch Bank is hereby authorized to date this note.

Wm. H. Woods

Samuel P. Woods

John Smith

9

Sales sheet, dated 1840. Samuel Woods Dr. to Sarah N. B. Ridge, administration of the estate of John Ridge, deceased, with purchases and amounts listed from Jan. 10 through Nov. 25 of 1840.

10

We, James W. Clark, B. W. Featherston and Wm. H. Woods, three citizens of the County of Benton and State of Arkansas and householders therein having thereto been appointed by Wm. S. Featherston, Esquire, have this day viewed a certain mare shown to us by Sam P. Woods as estray, find said mare to be a dark bay, black mane and tail and legs, no brands or marks perceivable except some saddle spots, about 14 hands high, supposed to be 7 years old this spring, shod all round, and we do value the said mare to be worth the sum of \$36.25, this the 10th day of April 1849.

James W. Clark

B. W. Featherston

Wm. H. Woods

11

Justice Court Jan. 14, 1843. To Joseph McKisick, one day's attendance as witness. 50 c.

12

Elm Springs, June 22, 1852. This day settled with Sml. P. Woods and have recd payment in full of all demands against him to this date.

Barrington, Shelton & Co.,

pr W. G. Deaver

13

List of subscribers to build a school in Benton County, dated Jan. 23 1841. Among the subscribers are David Walker \$10 and R.W. Mecklin \$20. Total raised \$490.

14

Several letters written from the gold fields of California in 1853 and 1854. One letter from Robert Woods, written at Sacramento, Calif., Aug. 9, 1853, says: "Met Carroll Whinery and Frederick Linebarger!" Another letter, from Robert Woods at Tehuma, Calif., Jan. 6, 1854, says: "I met with James King and Wm. Howard. They told me that Bill McEwen was somewhere in the county."

15

Benton County, Arks. August 8th, 1857. On or before the 1st day of October next I promise to pay M. E. Abbey or 'bearer Six Dollars \$6.00 in Wool Wheat Hides Pelts at Dennis Callahan's at the market price.

16

There are several letters written in 1853 and 1854 by J.W.Washbourne who owned a farm in Benton County. A typical letter is the following:

Fayetteville, Ark., Nov.15, 1854.

Dear Sir: I am impatiently confined here by a very painful swelling on my foot, so that I can scarcely move; and it is impossible for me to ride. I have been waiting several days to see if I would grow better, and Mr.Tebbetts has also been waiting on me to go out into Benton as he talks of buying my farm and all my stock and horses. I am impatient to get out to Benton, but I can't help myself. I am sorry to put you to inconvenience, and I will get Argyle away from your keeping as soon as I possibly can.

As to my oats, I want them threshed badly, and if you can do it before I get out to Benton, I will be very glad. Milton Holmes, when I saw him, did not know as he could have his threshed or not. I will come out as soon as I can, but cannot tell whether I shall be able to for several days yet. Truly your friend,

J. W. Washbourne

Saml P. Woods, Esq.

17

The Woods collection contains a great many army papers dated in 1861 and 1862, chiefly Quartermaster's receipts for supplies and passes through the lines. The following are typical:

July 26, 1861. Recd of S. P. Woods Orders No. 21 for Maj. Montgomery Q Master of Gen. McCulloch's Brigade for payment for 1861 bundle Oats. Also No.23 for 3568 bundles Oats endorsed for me for \$200 per hundred. Also No.71 for 125 bundles Oats. Also No.78 for 1200 lb Beef.

P. W. Cox, QM & Ajt (CSA)

Feb. 23, 1862. Osage Prairie, Benton County, Ark. Recd of Jas.Woods for use of Dubuque Btry., Light Arty., 1200 bu Corn.

M.C.Wright, Lt., Dubuque Btry.

C.S.A. to Samuel P. Woods Dr. Aug. 27, 1862

To 20 bu. corn @ 75.....\$15.00

Signed, G.W.Pemberton, QM, Mo.Rangers (CSA)

Approved, Col. Warner Lewis

Missouri State Guards, 1st Regt.

To 80 bu. Corn @ \$1.

The Confederate States of America Dr. to S. P. Woods, Aug.27, 1862.

For 350 lbs of Beef @ 5 ¢ per lb.....\$11.50

I certify that the above account is just and correct and got for the use of the C.S.A. S.S.Bidinger, Com., Mo. Rangers (CSA)

Camp Johnson, Sept.29, 1862

Received of R.D.Woods one double barrel shot gun valued at fifteen dollars.

T.T.Jefferson, Capt.Comdg,Co.C,

Col.Armstrong's Regt., 1st Ark.Vol.

Camp Stephens, March 16, 1862

The holder, Samuel P. Woods, a sensible citizen, has furnished all he can spare of supplies and should be protected.

Saml R. Curtis, Brig.Genl., (USA)

March 16, 1862

Let Mrs. Margaret Woods Moore out of Bentonville to see her father.

Saml R. Curtis, Brig.Genl., (USA)

March 16, 1862

Pass the bearer Mr. Woods out of camp through Bentonville to their homes.

S. R. Curtis, Brig.Genl., (USA)

Provost Guard. Will pass Samuel P. Woods and render him all assistance possible in recovering any property he may have had taken by the Federal troops Feb. 23, 1862. By order of

E. W. Weston, Major, 24 Mo. Vols. (USA)

18

A unique item in the Woods collection is the following poem, written in pencil and addressed to Miss Eliza Woods, Big Spring, Benton County, Ark. Undated and unsigned.

Fare you well, my true love,
Fare you well, my dear.
Don't weep for my long absence
While yet I am so near.

The war they are commencing
And I for one must go;
The federals are advancing
To strike their fatal blow.

It has been my misfortune
A soldier for to be;
Live contented, my dear darling,
And don't weep after me.

The cannon like thunder roaring,
The bullets swiftly fly;
The drums and fifes are beating
To drown our mournful cry..

If you are not to hasty marry
While absent I remain,
You be the girl I'll marry
When I return again.

Hand and hand together
Through the shady grove
Almost broken-hearted
She parted from her love.

Jeff Davis is our commander
And I for one must go;
And if my life is taken,
I dare not tell him so.

She wrung her hands with sorrow
And bitterly did cry,
Saying, I wish I was a soldier
And by your side could die.

19

The Woods collection contains a great many letters that have not yet been examined or indexed. Some of these are from men from northwest Arkansas who served in the Confederate army, east of the Mississippi River. They are chiefly personal letters and do not give much information about the war. The letter that follows is typical. It was written from Corinth, Miss., in May 1862. The battle of Corinth was fought in October of that year. The letter, written by one Davidson, is addressed to his cousin, Samuel P. Woods, in Benton County. It reads as follows:

(Woods collection)

19

Camp 3 miles South Corinth
Tishomingo Co., Miss., May 11/'62

Cousin Sam

Dear Sir

It is with pleasure that I have the opportunity of addressing you. For notwithstanding the wide waters of the Miss. separates us, and hundreds of miles lie out and intervene between you and I, yet I still entertain that same kind feeling and tender regard for my land of nativity and long loved friends, though I have little hope of ever enjoying that land, or seeing my friends again.

My health is very bad at this time. I have just recovered from an attack of fever and am very feeble, though I think I will be able for duty in a few days. I am Regimental Fifer in Merea's Regt Ark. Vols. My family is in Parker Co., Tex., at Bro. Blackburn's. Pa and Ma and all the relatives were well when I left there about the 15 of April.

We are under General Beauregard who has a tremendous force and is expecting battle every hour. We had a heavy skirmish day before yesterday with about 40,000 Feds. We whipped them and drove them from the field and took 400 prisoners. This battle is bound to terminate very soon and with it the existence of 100,000 men, for such a battle has never yet been fought on this continent, and upon this hangs our independence. If we succeed we are free. If not, the South shall be drenched with blood for years and years to come. But may the God of battle be with us upon this occasion and give us the victory and drive the invaders from our soil.

Cousin Sam, if I have any property, furniture or anything left that is not destroyed, I want you to see to it for me. If Mr. Witty is still on John's place and my stuff is not destroyed, tell him to take good care of it, if he pleases, whilst he remains there. And if he leaves there, please see to my things. If you need any of my furniture or anything I have there, take it and use it. If you can sell my cooking stove or any of my furniture for anything like its worth, let it go and use the money until you hear from me. If you should sell anything of mine and get any money, pay Mr. Fausett for 16 lbs of bacon and Mr. Stokes \$5.00. If I live I will be round with money to settle up all my debts.

Tell Mr. Stokes that Johnny is in our Co. and is well. Robert Wallace says tell his people he is well. Mel Ricketts got here last night. Milt Race is at the hospital in Boonville, Miss. He is very poorly and looks bad. We would all like to go home when our time is up, but are very fearful we will have to remain for two years longer. Our Regt. re-organized a day or two ago. Lieut. Col. Hobbs was elected Colonel. Kinzie Etres is Capt. of Reynolds Co. and Reynolds is Major. Our Regt. is reduced down very small. We have a great many sick and I fear we will have more before the season closes.

There has been a great deal of rain here this few weeks past, though the weather is very fine at present. Tell Old man Vestal if I have anything in Bentonville to take care of it for me. Send word to Burrell Featherston and Harriett Hastings that I am in Miss. and would like to see them. Jack and John Gregory is well. Will Colwell is not very well, though able for duty. Dr. Morrow is very unwell. I must close.

Respectfully,

H. N. Davidson

Battle of Oak Hills
A Washington County Soldier's Experience

(The following account was found in an old scrapbook by Alvin Seamster of Bentonville. It evidently was published in the Arkansas Sentinel of August 1897. WJL)

Editors Sentinel: We have just passed the 36th anniversary of the battle of Oak Hills. The scene is very plain to me now -- the surprise we all experienced when McCulloch issued orders to us to cook three days rations and be ready to mount at 10 o'clock on the night of the 9th. The rations were cooked but owing to the rain the marching orders were countermanded. The pickets were called in at dark and this fact was not reported, so we Confederates were surprised. It was intended for the Confeds to march to Springfield against General Lyon. It seems General Lyon wanted us fellows as bad as we thought we wanted him, and as we didn't go to him he came in search of us, and at dawn of day he and General Sigel found us. The writer was up early and noticed a young man riding from the northeast straight toward the place (where) General McCulloch's tent was pitched. He called out to the General that the enemy was in sight, and in three minutes the cannon's boom signalled to our boys that work was at hand. This young man was Hugh Evins, a brother of Capt. A.A. Evins, now a citizen of Fayetteville.

The Captain formed the company to which I belonged -- some of them only partially dressed. Capt. Pleasant Buchanan was in command. A brief lull in the proceedings gave the boys a chance to finish putting on their clothes, but we were soon ordered to support Woodruff's battery, which was in position nearby. The regiment was commanded by Colonel Gratiot of Hempstead County. The Adjutant, I think, was Lieutenant Wilcox of Van Buren. We were still with the battery at 11:30 a.m. when we were ordered over on "Bloody Hill" to encounter General Lyon. The distance was about three-quarters of a mile, a little northwest. We went over in double-quick time and were soon in line of battle, when the Federals opened fire on us. We were ordered to lie down for a while, but were soon up again and in the thickest of the fight. In 40 minutes we found that "victory had perched on our banner". General Lyon fell in this battle.

Old Comrades, after 36 years how many of us are left who were there on that memorable 10th of August, 1861? I would be glad for each one to make himself known through the SENTINEL. Most of us who still linger here are listening for the long roll to summon us over the river where so many have already gone. Let's be ready.

J. A. J. Wheeler, Parker, Texas

Legislature Declares War Eagle Navigable Stream

An act of the legislature, approved Dec. 2, 1848, declared War-Eagle in Washington County a navigable stream, from "opposite Sylvanus Blackburn's to its junction with White River." Obstructions were prohibited except dams not more than 4 feet high "built for machinery and mills".

Memories of Grandview Union Sunday School

by Thomas Rothrock

Many of the best memories of my younger days go back to the Grandview Union Sunday School which was held in the old Grandview Methodist Church on the hills above Clear Creek Valley just a short distance northwest of Greathouse Springs.

My family moved to Northwest Arkansas from Baltimore, Maryland, in 1910 when I was thirteen years of age. My father, a chemist for Armour and Company, tired of his rather unhealthy work and decided to get out-of-doors. He was brought to Northwest Arkansas by Bill Leighton's article in the Saturday Evening Post about his Happy Hollow Farm near Fayetteville.

During our first two years in Arkansas we did not attend church. In 1912 a Union Sunday School was organized and permission obtained from the Methodist folks to use the old Grandview Church building above Greathouse Springs, the church body at that place having become inactive. The building was within two miles of our home and easily accessible even in horse and buggy days. My family helped establish the Sunday School and were regular attendants.

The building was a one-room affair, the dimensions of which I could not give now but it was fairly spacious. At the east end of the room and on a raised platform was the pulpit. My class, the "young folks class" that took in everyone from fifteen years to marriage, met in the northeast corner. Where other classes met I cannot now recall. Mrs. Reyburn Peay and then my father taught the "young folks class".

We had preaching and church services only irregularly. "Uncle Ben" Greathouse preached to us at times as did another elderly minister named Jackson. "Brother Jackson" was the only name I ever knew him by. He was a short, round man with a white beard who made one think of St. Nick, down to the twinkling eyes. Missionary Alfred Wasson, on leave from Korea, was with us one summer. He had with him a group of young Korean Christians who sang for us.

We had no piano but the Methodist folks left us a pretty good old organ and young people often brought other instruments to help with the music. Orlin Greathouse played the trombone, Alvin Luper the cornet and a young lady named Galbraith played the violin. Orlin Greathouse full of mischief, would at times come out with a trombone blast that would just about blow the song leader, Mr. Campbell, off his beat.

Besides regular Sunday School services there were always special services during the year. Rally Day in the spring with the children giving the program; the annual picnic in the summer; a big dinner with thanks at Thanksgiving; a tree and program at Christmas. The latter was rendered more realistic at least one year by a heavy snowfall on Christmas Eve when the program was held. Once a month there was a surprise party held at one of the member homes, the family chosen not knowing the night or place till a considerable portion of the congregation descended upon them with a rattle of buggy wheels and cries of "Whoa!" Occasionally we held a joint dinner and program with the Stony Point or New Hope Baptist Church.

Many old Northwest Arkansas families attended the Grandview Union Sunday School. There was the Alex Greathouse family, with children Maud and Margaret; the brand new, at that time, Herman Greathouse family, son of Alex; the Bob Greathouse family, with children Orlin and Gladys; the Dora Reed family, with children Maggie, Kate, Fred, Joe and Lela; the Wils Divens family, with children Eula, Charley, Smith and Bryan; both the John and Carl McCoy families, the latter with son Meade and others; the George Stipes family, with daughter Gladys; the Bill Jackson family, with children Harry, Jewel, Jim and Thelma; the Billy Paige family, with sons Frank and Albert; the Calvin Paige family with children Tommie, Jessie and others; the Dobbs family, with children Gertie, Lawrence, Walter, Bessie, Mamie and others.

Besides the "old timers" there were several families of "newcomers". The Campbells, with daughters Pearl and Maud; the Roy Snyders, with children; the Galbraiths; the Garrisons; the Rodericks; the L. A. Davidsons. L.A. Davidson, as I recall, was the prime mover in organizing the Grandview Union Sunday School and he it was who played the old organ left us by the Methodist folks. He later managed a business college in Fayetteville, then did the same at New Orleans where he and Mrs. Davidson passed away.

The names of other folks who attended Grandview Union Sunday School are: Luper, Hart, Peay, Masterson, Rothrock, Pyeatt, Good and Stuckey. One family named Foutz which came to our Sunday School the first year of its organization moved then to Oklahoma. Not long afterwards we were severely shocked by the report that all had lost their lives in a prairie fire. There may have been others who attended Grandview Union Sunday School at one time or other. I have had to rely on memory. All records have, as far as I know, vanished long since.

Never have I known a kinder more sincere Christian gentleman than "Uncle Alex" Greathouse. An incident that happened while he was superintendent and I was secretary has furnished me more than one smile since as I recalled it. A woman about forty years of age put her special birthday offering in with the collection. Supposed to give a penny for each year of her age, she put in a silver half-dollar. When reading the minutes I stated quite clearly that, "Mrs. Reyburn Peay gave a birthday offering of fifty cents". Younger members of the Sunday School tittered and perhaps some of the older ones did also. The service over, "Uncle Alex" came to me and put an arm about my shoulders. Speaking my name he said with gentle concern, "You are a good secretary, a good one. Hereafter, though, I don't believe I'd read out the amount of birthday offerings. I just don't believe I would".

Grandview Union Sunday School was organized in 1912. World War I dissolved it. I enlisted and when I came home two years later the Sunday School of many pleasant boyhood memories was no more. Damaged by the storm, the frame building was torn down during the so-called "roaring twenties". An attractive modern home now occupies the site. A quite small cemetery connected with the church has been all but lost. One would have to look long to find any trace of it and perhaps could find none at all.

Several families I knew at Grandview are still in Northwest Arkansas. Others left during World War I or shortly thereafter and have long since passed from my field of knowledge.

History in Century-Old Autograph Album

by W.J.Lemke

Old-fashioned autograph albums, in which relatives and friends inscribed bits of sentiment, are not rare. But two such albums dating back to 1858, which have been loaned to the Washington County Historical Society by Vale Mayes of Edinburg, Texas, are most unusual. In the first place, they are beautiful examples of the bookmaker's art. They are cloth-bound, with covers highly ornamented and embossed in color and gold. The pages are in pastel colors, interspersed with wonderful old copper engravings. In the second place, these albums are unusual because of the Washington County names and because many of the entries were written by soldiers during the war years of 1862-1865.

The albums belonged to Miss Amanda Peerson, who evidently lived in the Billingsley (Moffit) neighborhood. She must have been a popular girl. There are many verses signed by young men, in the army or about to enter the army, and by her friends -- Becca Banks, Belle Banks, Nellie Skelton, Mary E. Denny, Amanda Higgins, Sallie Gray and others. Relatives who can be identified in their entries are her sister, Mrs. Mary Dye of Billingsley, and John Ingram, "your cousin of Benton County."

The earliest entry is "Stanza to Amanda" written by L.L.K. of Olivers Prairie in January 1858. The latest entry is an account by W.C. Peerson (probably her brother) of his service in the Union army, written at Fayetteville on January 12, 1865. The dedicatory verse by W.C.P. in 1858 reads as follows:

This cherished book when written o'er
With names of friends so loved of yore,
May each one prove a star of light
To guide your path of life a-right.
Then on each page, and through each line,
May sweet affection's jewels shine
And sparkle with that radiant hue
Which brings old faces back to view,
Fond mem'ry musing o'er some phrase
Recalls a scene of bygone days.

FLASHBACK readers will find of interest some of the sentimental verses of a century ago. Here are a few:

To Amanda
No pen can paint
No tongue can tell
The fearful sensations
Of the word Farewell.

Dan P. Thom, Fayetteville, Ark., Sept. 15, 1858

To the Belle of Washington County

Oh, thou goddess of beauty and love,
Who has received all these from above,
How canst thou so light-hearted and free
Ever thy consent give, an old maid to be?

J. L. Hening

My Dear Young Friend, AEP

A damask cheek, an ivory arm,
Can ne'er my wishes win;
Give me an ornamented mind
That speaks a soul within.

M.H.Bassore, Sept.29, 1861

Among the entries written by soldiers during the war are the following:

Don't let the time seem long while I am gone, for some day
I expect to return. You won't think of me while on this race,
for thinking of one that is in my mess and that is "B".

W. S. T.

To Miss Amanda Peerson

Respected Lady Friend: I admire thee for industrious and
lady-like appearance. Thou must be the pride of thy father
and mother. A few weeks ago I saw thee first in thy father's
house where I spent a week very pleasantly, parting with
thee and thy parents for my home, as I hoped, but the for-
tunes of war brought me back again. And thou art still the
same unassuming, kind and modest girl. May thy future life
be one of prosperity and happiness; and when thou givest thy
heart and hand to another, be sure that he is worthy of thy
confidence. -- W.W.W.

I am a Missouri volunteer
and have left my lady dear
to go and fight for my liberty
and if I chance to get slain
and don't return again,
I hope you will remember me.

George W. Robertson

Tell me not that woman's smiles
Are given but to deceive us,
For all her winning ways and wiles
Were never made to grieve us.

J. B. S.

To Amanda

Farewell to the girl I never more (will) see,
I am going to seek a fortune in a foreign land.
I care nothing for no one that cares nothing for me.

J. W. R.

The drum, the fife, the bugle,
I follow their martial tones;
They shall lead me on victorious
Or peal above my bones.

W. C. P.

Other soldier entries were signed "Your roving friend", and "Charlie G. Newman, Captain Commanding, Co.E, Infantry Regiment." Other autographs are those of A.E.Peerson, C.S.Mayes, Charlie Stinson, Mary J. Williamson (California, Mo.), "A Friend" (Billingsley, Ark.), Susan G. Anderson and "Pilgrim".

There are several entries by L.G.B. and M.H.Bassore, all written in 1860 and 1861. L.G.B. was undoubtedly L.G.Bassore of Billingsley, A Washington County Justice of the Peace. And M.H.B. was probably his wife, M.Hennie Bassore. The Bassores emphasized the seriousness of life, as is shown by a letter of advice written Sept. 29, 1861, following Amanda Peerson's conversion and acceptance into the church.

This world is all a fleeting show
For man's illusion given;
The smiles of joy, the tears of woe,
Deceitful shine, deceitful flow --
There's nothing true but heaven.

Mary Dye, Liberty Hill, Ark., Oct. 17, 1860

The most important historical contribution in these old albums is a brief account of W. C. Peerson's service in the Union Army during the Civil War. It reads as follows:

Fayetteville, Arkansas, January 12, 1865

I was borned in Washington County on the 23rd day of March 1844. I lived with my Parance until about the age of 18. In the year of 1862 (the most of that time we lived in the State of Arkansas) I was forced by the Rebels to leave my home and take sides with them or go North to the Federal Army and I took it to my choice to go North -- myself, my Father, other relations and acquaintances 8 in number. Started on the morning of the 1st of December 1862 for the Federal Army, of which the nearest point was Elk Horn in Benton County, a distance of 35 miles. There was some Rebels between where we started from and the Federal Army although we had no trouble on the route. We reached the Army on the night of the same day, where we remained until the 3rd of December when myself and friend Campbell joined Co.B, 1st Arkansas Cavalry Volunteers on the morning of the 4th. The Regiment started on the march for the fight at the Prairie Grove battle. After the battle was over, our Regiment was stationed at Fayetteville, Arkansas, where we remained until the 18th day of April when we was attacked by a Rebel Command of 15 Hundred of which General Cabell was in command. We repulsed them and drove them off. We then remained there until the 25th day of April when we moved north to Springfield, Mo., where we remained a short time. Then we moved to Cassville, 50 miles south of Springfield, and remained there about 6 months, having a great many small fights and scrummashes with the Bushwhackers. When the Regiment received orders to move to Fayetteville on the 12th of August 1864, where we remained at this time. We have had a very hard time since we have been stationed at this Post. Had a great deal of hard fighting to do. We have been surrounded for days and days that we darsen to show ourselves outside the Post. I have been in more than a dozen hard fights with the Rebels since I have been in service. Have had two horses shot from under me by the Rebels though I have had the good luck to not get wounded myself, although I have had several balls shot through my clothes. I have at this time 9 months to serve before my time is out and I sincerely hope that I may have as good luck for the rest of my time as I have had what time I have served. And if I should live through and get my discharge, I shall feel that I have done my part for my country. If every man in the Army had done as much as I have already done, this cruel war would be over.

W. C. Peerson, Co.B, 1st Ark. Cav. Vols.

Another Writer Tries His Hand at Border Warfare
(A Book Review)

Jay Monaghan: "Civil War on the Western Border, 1854-1865". Published by Little Brown. \$6. Can be secured at McRoy & McNair's in Fayetteville.

This book devotes most of its pages to Kansas and Missouri, but northwest Arkansas gets attention. Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove not only get attention but get literary embroidery as well. I do not know if the former state historian of Illinois (Monaghan) has ever followed the routes of the contending armies in Benton and Washington counties or if he has ever tramped over the fields of Prairie Grove and Pea Ridge. If he hasn't, he has no business trying to describe those battles. A reading of that old classic, Britton's "War on the Border", cannot take the place of a first-hand acquaintance with the site.

As a general rule, I can read any book about Arkansas through at one sitting. But it took me all summer (June to September) to read Monaghan's book. Which is why the New York Times beat me to a review. The Times' laudatory review -- "a truly indispensable book" -- appeared on June 9. If you want to know what the NY Times found interesting in the book, here's a paragraph from Orville Prescott's review:

"The war in the west was fought by some of the most strikingly colorful men in American history. On the Northern side were Nathaniel Lyon, the fanatical red-bearded Union general who died in the battle of Wilson's Creek; Franz Sigel, the scholarly little German who proved to be a brilliant soldier; Charles Fremont; James Blunt, a belligerent 'little whiffet of a man'; and Wild Bill Hickok, who served as a scout and spy. For the South were Sterling Price, 'Old Pap' who weighed 290 pounds and went to war in a carriage; Alfred Pike, who commanded Indian troops; Jo Shelby, commander of 'The Iron Brigade'; Mark Twain, who spent a few weeks in a comic-opera interlude and then decided that he had had enough of war; Cole Younger and the James brothers."

I hope Brig.General W.Y.Slack CSA, asleep in the Confederate Cemetery on East Mountain, is reading this. And Confederate Generals McCulloch and McIntosh, who also died at Pea Ridge. And all the Washington County farm boys, in Blue and Gray, who died in northwest Arkansas.

As for "Alfred" Pike, all I can say is Accuracy Always. The general of course, was Albert Pike. It might interest the Times to learn that Pike is the only Confederate general whose statue stands in Washington, D.C.

WCHS Directors Meet

The directors of the WCHS met Tuesday evening, Sept.13, at the home of the president, Dr. Fount Richardson. Present were Misses Albright and Gallaway, Mrs. Read, Messrs. Buchanan, Feathers, Humphreys, Lemke, Logan, Root and Richardson. A committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of acquiring the Yell house as a historical museum. It was decided to hold the quarterly meeting of the entire society on Sunday, Sept.25. The monthly Round Table session will be held Oct.4, with discussion, to be led by Miss Grace Albright, on "Old brick homes and the families who lived in them." Subject for the November Round Table will be "Unforgettable persons of Washington County."

Colonel Rieff Re-Organizes Washington County Militia in 1860

Through the courtesy and help of members of the Archives Department, Arkansas History Commission (Old State House, Little Rock), we are able to present below a series of letters from Washington County citizens, addressed to Governor Elias N. Conway and pertaining to the Washington County regiment of Arkansas Militia in 1860. The originals of these letters are in the Kie Oldham collection of the History Commission. Kie Oldham was private secretary to Gov. J. P. Eagle and was a history enthusiast. The Oldham collection contains some 2000 letters and documents. Among those pertaining to Washington County are the letters that follow, most of them signed by Henry Rieff of Fayetteville as Colonel of the 20th Regiment, Arkansas Militia.

The letters reveal the disturbed conditions of early 1860. The state administration, preparing for any eventuality, called for reports from the Militia regiments scattered throughout the state. It is interesting to note that the Washington County regiment of state militia was officered by men who a year later were facing each other on opposite sides of a civil war. Thus, the 1st Battalion of the 20th Regiment, Arkansas Militia (east of Springdale) was in 1860 officered by future Confederates, whereas the 2nd Battalion (south of Fayetteville) was officered chiefly by men who, when war came, served in the Union army. The letters, published for the first time, follow.

1

Regtl Hdqrs., Fayetteville,
20th Regt., Arkansas Militia
January 3, 1860

To his Excellency
Elias N. Conway

Yours of the 24th ult. has been received a day or so and beg leave to say in answer that the militia of this regiment (20th) have not done any duty for several years and I do not now know who are officers and who are not, as fully as I could desire. Some have died, others no doubt removed from the county, but I am now endeavoring to investigate this matter and ascertain who are officers and order election to fill vacancies. In your letter you mention Bracken Lewis as Major but H.E.Moulden was Major but is now dead. He was Major in the 20th instead of the 32nd as stated in your letter. Lt.Col. M.S.Gregg is still living. In the 1st Battalion Maj. Moulden as before stated deceased. As you kindly offered to give me a list of the officers of Regt. 20, I will be glad to have it as it will aid me in ascertaining the officers names.

In answer to your letter relative to the 32nd Regt., I will say that Col. Denton is deceased. Also I think Lt.Col. Coulter has removed from the county and that Maj. Colwell who was elected in said regiment is deceased. Consequently the offices are all vacant. I will see General Neal as suggested who no doubt will order elections to fill the offices. Also I will carry out your suggestion in relation to the number of companies.

I shall proceed at once to have this regiment (20) officered and enrolled and I think the times and signs of the times favor it, and arouse the citizen soldier to take an interest in this at all times (but more particularly at this time) important matter.

Your Obedt Servant,

To the
Commander in Chief,
Gov. Elias N. Conway, Little Rock, Ark.

Henry Rieff, Col.Comdg. 20 Regt, A.M.

2

HdQRS, Fayetteville, Jan. 7, '60

George C. North, Captain of Volunteer Company raised in city of Fayetteville and called "The Washington Rifle Guards."

J. W. Walker, 1st Lt.

Wm. D. Smithson, 2nd Lt.

Jas. H. VanHoose, 3rd Lt.

Henry Rieff

3

HdQRS, Fayetteville, Feb. 1, '60

Moses Williams Lt. Col. of 1st Battalion, 20th Regt., A.M.

Francis Cloer, Captain Co. B

Elijah Mayfield, 1st Lt., Co. B

J. T. Combs, 2nd Lt., Co. B

Henry Rieff

4

HdQRS, Fayetteville, Feb. 18, 1860

James M. Tuttle, captain of a Volunteer Co. of Cavalry called the "Washington County Mounted Rifles" on Feb. 14:

P. P. VanHoose, 1st Lt.

W. R. Cunningham, 2nd Lt.

Jas. R. Pettigrew, 3rd Lt.

Henry Rieff

5

20th Regt HdQRS, Fayetteville,
Feb. 27, 1860

Certify officers elected 18 Feby 1860:

S. M. Adair, Major 2 Bat. 20 Regt. A.M.

Geo. B. Ballard, Captain Co. F

John S. Williams, 1 Lt., Co. F

A. J. Ballard, 2 Lt., Co. F

T. J. Hunt, Captain Co. G, 2 Bat., 20 Regt.

H. Fine, 1 Lt.

J. M. Remy, 2 Lt.

Thos. J. Gilstrap, Captain Co. H

Chas. W. Moore, 1 Lt.

Henry Hutchens, 2 Lt.

S. B. Enyart, Captain Co. C, 1st Bn.

G. S. Tramel, 1 Lt.

T. A. Towler, 2 Lt.

E. R. Freeman, Capt., Co. D, 1st Bn.

John W. Brandenburg, 1 Lt.

James F. Wilson, 2 Lt.

Henry Rieff, Col. Comdg., 20 Regt., A.M.

6

HdQRS., Fayetteville, Mar. 15, 1860

W. J. Patton elected 2nd Lt., Co. A, March 3.

Henry Rieff, Col.

7

HdQRS., Ark Militia, 4 Brig., June 6, 1860

Military election for Colonel of Regt. 32, July 25, 1860.

Commission issued to Hughes.

8

Regt Hqrs., 20 Regt., A.M.

Certifies

Daniel Simpson elected Captain Co.B, 20 Regt., on June 30, 1860, and
 Roger Johnson 1 Lt. and Wm. Gregg 2nd Lt.

Henry Rieff, Col.Comdg., 20 Regt., A.M.

9

Washington County, Ark., July 16, '60

Elias N. Conway,

Sir: According to returns made to me by the clerk of this county, it
 appears that George W. Hughes was duly elected Colonel Commandant of
 the 32nd Regt on 2 day of June 1860. You will direct his commission to
 Cincinnati, Washington County, Ark.

W. T. Neal, Brig. Genl.,
 Comdg 4 Brig., Ark Militia

10

Fayetteville, Sept. 24, 1860

John C. Head, Major 2 Bat 20 Regt A.M. on 15 Sept., 1860

J. W. Hutchens, Captain Co.H

G. W. M. Reed, Captain Co. E

Wm. M. Rutherford, 1 Lt. Co.E

Thomas H. Dye, 2 Lt., Co.E

Henry Rieff

11

Cincinnati, Ark., Oct. 6, 1860

E. N. Conway:

Certify T. J. Blakemore elected Lt.Col. on 29 Sept., 1860. Also

Isaac N. Hultz elected Major

J. W. Smith, Captain Co. A.

C. M. Graham, 1st Lt. Co.A

S. J. Miller, 2nd Lt., Co.A

George W. Hughes,
 Col.Comdg. 32 Regt., Arks Militia

There is but one Co. yet organized.

NEWS BRIEFS

The September issue of the Pulaski County Historical Review contains what is probably the most complete study yet made of the "Arkansas Territorial Militia". The article, by Margaret Smith Ross, covers the history of the militia from 1806 to 1835. The list of commissions includes three names that later appeared in Washington County. -- Tyner, Billingsley and Greathouse.

Members of the Greene County(Mo.) Historical Society toured the battlefield of Wilson's Creek on Aug.10; the 94th anniversary of the battle in which several Arkansas regiments received their baptism of fire. The principal speaker was Maj.Genl. Ralph E. Truman (ret.) who pointed out that Wilson's Creek was one of the bloodiest battles ever fought in America considering the number of men engaged. John K. Hulston, attorney who has done much research on the battle, spoke briefly. He pointed out that 18 West Point graduates -- 14 Federals and 4 Confederates -- were engaged at Wilson's Creek and that 14 of them rose to be generals before the war was over.

BENTON COUNTY PIONEER

The first issue of the Benton County Pioneer (Vol.I, No.1, September 1955) has made its appearance. It contains an excellent "History of the Blackburn Family" written by Miss Vera Key. The Blackburns were pioneer settlers (1832) at War Eagle, at that time in Washington County. The Blackburn mills (1838 and 1848) played an important part in the economic development of northwest Arkansas. The article is illustrated with drawings of the old grist mill and the Blackburn home.

WCHS members who would like to receive this first number of the Pioneer and future issues are invited to send a year's dues (\$3) to the secretary of the Benton County Historical Society, Huey G. Huhn, Route #1, Rogers, Ark.

A.I.U. REPORT CARDS

Mrs. W. F. Dunn Sr. of Tulsa, Okla., has given to our Society five "report cards" issued by the Arkansas Industrial University from 1896 to 1899. Subjects taught in the University, as listed on these grade reports, were: arithmetic, algebra, geometry, grammar, rhetoric, U.S. history, general history, physiology, chemistry, forge and foundry, Latin lessons, Caesar, physical geography, civil government, bookkeeping, agriculture, dairying, drawing, tools and materials, farm and shop. The grading system used in the 90's was E for Excellent, G for Good, F for Fair, P for Poor, B for Bad. The report cards, all signed by President Jno.L.Buchanan, were those of J.L. and W.F. Dunn.

SEPTEMBER ROUNDTABLE

"The Gold Rush" was the topic at the monthly Roundtable session of the WCHS on Sept.6. W.J.Lemke told the story of Capt.Lewis Evans' company of 120 Washington and Benton County men and women who made the trek to California in the summer of 1849. In the discussion that followed, it became evident that other Washington County citizens made the Gold Rush as members of other companies. The WCHS is now collecting information and is particularly desirous of seeing letters written from the gold fields by Washington County citizens.

SHEPHERD SPRING REUNION

A number of our WCHS members attended the Shepherd Spring reunion in August at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Owen France, just a few miles south of the Washington County line. The visitors' register contained names from Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri, as well as 100 or more from the Arkansas Ozarks. It was the final meeting at Shepherd Spring. The dam is nearing completion and soon the entire valley will be under water and historic Frog Bayou will be a lake.

Most of the visitors stopped for a while at the 100-year-old Vaught cemetery, where removal of the graves was in progress. The new cemetery is just off busy Highway 71 at its junction with the Shepherd Spring road. I noted the grave markers of

James Vaught, Co.A, 1st Arkansas Infantry

Andrew Parker, Co.L, 2nd Arkansas Cavalry

G. W. Sims, born Jan. 14, 1777; died Jan. 1, 1890

Aged 112 years 11 months 17 days.

DAVID WALKER LETTERS

Eight letters written by Judge David Walker from his farm home near Fayetteville have been discovered in the C.C.Scott manuscript collection of the Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock. Copies of the letters have been furnished us by the History Commission and will shortly be made available to our members. Judge Walker gives an intimate picture of his home, his farm activities, his guns and hunting dogs, and his views on public matters.